

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV, PL, US

SUBJECT: SPASOWSKI-VEST CONVERSATION ON DIVIDED FAMILIES

1. SUMMARY. AT AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI'S REQUEST VEST HAD LUNCH AT HIS RESIDENCE JULY 31. DISCUSSION WAS LARGELY ON DIVIDED FAMILIES WHERE SPASOWSKI GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT, ALTHOUGH BASIC POLISH IMMIGRATION POLICY WOULD NOT BE ABANDONED, HE HAD SOME AUTHORITY FROM GIEREK TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION AND HOPED TO CONTINUE TO ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH CONTINUING QUIET DIALOGUE. SPASOWSKI WAS CONCERNED AT INCREASINGLY TROUBLED US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AND SPECULATED THAT IN BERLIN STATEMENTS ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION WE WERE PLAYING GERMAN "CARD" AGAINST SOVIETS. VEST SAID THAT POLICY ON REUNIFICATION HAD NOT CHANGED. END SUMMARY.

2. SPASOWSKI SAID THAT HE MUCH APPRECIATED THAT WE COULD TRY TO MAKE PROGRESS ON DIVIDED FAMILY ISSUE THROUGH QUIET APPROACH. HE HAD REPORTED TO GIEREK OUR EARLIER INFORMAL
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CONVERSATION AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARD THE SITUATION. SPASOWSKI SAID GIEREK HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO CONVEY TO US AND STRESS THE VALUE HE ATTACHES TO THE IMPROVED US-POLISH RELATIONSHIP ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT; IT WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THIS RELATIONSHIP IN A PERIOD LIKE THE PRESENT WHEN THE US AND

SOVIETS HAD INCREASING FRICTIONS.

3. AS FOR THE DIVIDED FAMILY SITUATION, SPASOWSKI SAID GIEREK WANTED TO MODERATE THIS DIVISIVE ISSUE. TO BE CANDID, HOWEVER, WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT THAT GIVEN THE PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN POLAND TODAY, THE BASIC POLICY ON EMIGRATION WOULD BE ABANDONED. NEVERTHELESS, SPASOWSKI SAID HE WOULD HAVE SOME PERSONAL AUTHORITY TO HELP DISPOSE OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CASES. IT WOULD NOT BE A BLANKET AUTHORITY BUT IT WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR PROGRESS.

4. SPASOWSKI SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED IN WARSAW THE LIST OF OUTSTANDING CASES WHICH VEST HAD GIVEN HIM JUST BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR POLAND. HE HAD SOME DETAILED COMMENTS ON THE LIST AND PROPOSED TO CALL IN THE DEPARTMENT EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR THAT PURPOSE. IT WAS AGREED THAT HE MEET WITH LUERS AND SCHMIDT. SPASOWSKI SAID WHILE HE COULD NOT MEET ALL OUR DESIRES, HE THOUGHT WE COULD MAKE A DEGREE OF PROGRESS WHICH WOULD BE HELPFUL BY THE TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CAME TO THE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. IN THAT CONNECTION HE NOTED THAT THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER HOPED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND, WHILE OPEN MINDED ABOUT THE PLACE, NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON, THERE WAS A PREFERENCE FOR WASHINGTON IF POSSIBLE. VEST SAID WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE SECRETARY'S CALENDAR BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 21 AND 26 AND WOULD COME BACK TO HIM.

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5. SPASOWSKI EMPHASIZED AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF QUIET INFORMAL EXCHANGE IF HE WERE TO HAVE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY FOR DEALING EFFECTIVELY WITH THE BUREAUCRACY IN WARSAW. HE WAS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ALLEVIATING OUR DIFFERENCES AND SO WAS GIEREK. AT THE LATTER'S INSTRUCTION, HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO WARSAW IN OCTOBER TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS.

6. SPASOWSKI INQUIRED ABOUT THE CONGRESSHALL STATEMENTS ON GERMAN REUNIFICATION. VEST EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT A NEW POLICY BUT A RESTATEMENT OF THE POSITION WHICH HAD BEEN HELD BY SEVEN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS AND WHICH INCIDENTALLY HAD BEEN THE BASIS FOR ONE OF THE ORIGINAL PRINCIPLES OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. SPASOWSKI REPLIED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT THIS WAS THE CASE BUT THAT NATURALLY POLAND ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT ANY PROSPECT OF A STRONG, UNITED GERMANY WITH ARMED FORCES RIGHT ON ITS BORDER. ALSO THERE HAD BEEN SOME SPECULATION IN WARSAW THAT THE BERLIN COMMENTS MIGHT REPRESENT ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC "CARD," SOMETHING LIKE THE CHINA CARD. VEST SAID AGAIN THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY ON REUNIFICATION AND THE STATE-

MENTS WERE NATURAL IN THE BERLIN CONTEXT.

7. SPASOWSKI SEEMED A BIT MORE UPBEAT THAN IN HIS LUNCH WITH LUERS. NEVERTHELESS, HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION OF A MAN WHO DOES NOT SEE THE PROSPECT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT OR WARMING OF THE US-POLISH RELATIONSHIP AND IS WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING IT AT THE PRESENT LEVEL IF US-SOVIET FRICTIONS CONTINUE.

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